

**IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

DALE WILKINSON,

CASE NO. 4:24-cv-02685

Plaintiff,

**PLAINTIFF'S AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR DAMAGES AND DECLARATORY
JUDGMENT**

HOWARD ANDREWS and

LISA DIEHI GREGORY

Defendants

10 COMES NOW, Plaintiff, DALE WILKINSON (“Plaintiff” or “WILKINSON”), by and
11 through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to F.R.C.P. 15(a)(1)(B) and Chapter 37 of the
12 Texas Codes, hereby files Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint for Damages and for Declaratory
13 Judgment, against Defendant, HOWARD ANDREWS (“ANDREWS”) and LISA DIEHI
14 GREGORY (“GREGORY”) (collectively “Defendants”), and alleges the following:
15

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all previous allegations as though fully set forth herein.

2. ANDREWS is a citizen of Texas.

3. GREGORY is a citizen of Texas.

4 WILKINSON is a citizen of Florida.

4. WILKINSON is a citizen of Florida.

5. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 as there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of costs and interest. *See ¶¶ 18, 32, below.*

6. Venue is proper in the Southern District of Texas as Defendants do business and/or reside in Montgomery, Texas.

PARTIES

3. At all times material to this action, Plaintiff, DALE WILKINSON, was, and continues to be, an adult individual who is a citizen of Florida and residing in Sarasota County, Florida.

4. At all times material to this action, Defendant, ANDREWS and GREGORY, were, and continue to be, adult individuals who are citizens of Texas and residing at 15637 Marina Dr, Unit 5, Montgomery, TX 77316, Montgomery County.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

6. In 2006, Plaintiff acquired a 1962 Chevrolet Corvette bearing the vehicle identification number (VIN) of 20867S111261, hereinafter, "Subject Vehicle 1".

7. Upon information and belief, Subject Vehicle 1 is worth approximately \$110,000.00 today. *A true and correct copy of the appraisal of Bill Trier is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.*

8. Plaintiff was provided with a Massachusetts title at the time.

9. Plaintiff did not register Subject Vehicle 1 at that time.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

1 10. In 2022, Plaintiff moved to Florida and, upon attempting to register Subject
2 Vehicle 1, discovered the existence of a second Corvette, hereinafter, "Subject Vehicle 2,"
3 bearing an identical Vehicle Identification Number ("VIN").
4

5 11. Upon information and belief, ANDREWS and GREGORY are co-owners of
6 Subject Vehicle 2.
7

8 12. Subject Vehicle 2's history can be traced in part through North Carolina and
9 Florida prior to be sold to the Defendants.
10

11 13. Upon information and belief, North Carolina and Florida, upon reviewing
12 Subject Vehicle 2's history, canceled the titles on their records.
13

14 14. Kenneth W. Kayser (KAYSER), published expert of Corvettes, inspected
15 photographs of the VIN tags of Subject Vehicles 1 and 2.
16

17 15. KAYSER determined that Subject Vehicles 1's VIN plate was authentic and
18 original to Subject Vehicle 1 while the VIN plate of Subject Vehicle 2 was a reproduction. *A*
19 *true and correct copy of KAYSER's expert report is attached hereto as Exhibit B and*
20 *incorporated herein.*
21

22 16. By way of example, KAYSER found that the Plaintiff's VIN tag was made of
23 the stainless steel while the Defendant's VIN tag is a aluminum reproduction with distinct,
24 nonstandard variations in the letters C, H, E, V, R, and O. *See Ex B, p 6-7.*
25

26 17. KAYSER also inspected a photograph of the frame number found on Subject
27 Vehicle 1 and determined that it is authentic. *See Ex. B, p 8-10.*
28

AMENDED COMPLAINT

1 18. KAYSER also states with a reasonable degree of professional certainty that if
2 Plaintiff is forced to obtain a state-issued replacement vehicle identification number, the
3 valuation of his Corvette is reduced to no more than \$15,000; a \$95,000 reduction in its
4 appraised value. *A true and correct copy of KAYSER's opinion is attached hereto as Exhibit*
5 *C and incorporated herein.*

COUNT I - DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

19. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

20. Upon information and belief, the Defendant never obtained and/or inspected Subject Vehicle 2's VIN to determine its authenticity.

21. Subject Vehicle 2 bears a counterfeit VIN, resulting in, among other things, substantial damages to Plaintiff's ownership, title, value and enjoyment of Subject Vehicle 1.

22. Subject Vehicle 2 bears a counterfeit VIN that prevents the Plaintiff from obtaining good, clear and marketable title for Subject Vehicle 1.

23. Plaintiff seeks the Court's determination that Subject Vehicle 1 possesses an authentic VIN plate and is the original vehicle to possess the VIN of 20867S111261.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DALE WILKINSON, respectfully requests this Court to enter a Declaratory Judgment against, Defendants, declaring Plaintiff's Subject Vehicle 1 is the true, correct and original bearer of the Vehicle Identification Number 20867S111261, and

AMENDED COMPLAINT

1 to award Plaintiff costs in successfully bringing this action, together with any other relief this
2 Court deems just and proper.

3 **COUNT II – SLANDER/DISPARAGEMENT OF TITLE**

4 24. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs of
5 this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

7 25. In November 2022, Plaintiff contacted the Defendant and presented proof that
8 his vehicle possessed the original VIN.

9 26. In April of 2023, despite the aforementioned knowledge, the Defendants titled
10 their vehicle in Montgomery County, Texas anyway.

12 27. Upon information and belief, Defendants maliciously made false statements to
13 third parties, including to the Department of Motor Vehicles of Texas, asserting Subject
14 Vehicle 2 was the sole authentic motor vehicle with the VIN 20867S111261.

16 28. The alleged aforementioned statements made by the Defendants are
17 demonstrably untrue and false, which is supported by the expert inspection report attached
18 hereto as Exhibit B.

19 29. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew or reasonably should have
20 known that the false statements they made to the aforementioned third parties would, among
21 other things, prevent Plaintiff from obtaining marketable title to Subject Vehicle 1.

23 30. As a result of Defendants' false statements, Plaintiff suffered substantial
24 damages, including special damages, actual damages, attorneys' fees and costs.

26 AMENDED COMPLAINT

31. As a result of Defendants' false statements, Plaintiff's vehicle is significantly devalued.

32. Plaintiff lost specific sales of Subject Vehicle 1; by way of example, prior to commencing litigation, Plaintiff attempted to sell Subject Vehicle 1 to another Florida citizen, John Blumberg, for the sum of \$110,000.00. Mr. Blumberg was prepared to purchase the vehicle until Plaintiff disclosed the dispute over the VIN caused by the Defendants' slander. Upon learning of this issue, Mr. Blumberg first counteroffered for \$86,000.00 but thereafter withdrew from the purchase entirely by reason of the cloud that the Defendants placed over the Plaintiff's title.

33. Defendants' false statements were the cause and proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

34. Plaintiff is entitled to recover his damages from the Defendants as a result of their slander/disparagement of the Plaintiff's Subject Vehicle 1's title.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DALE WILKINSON, respectfully requests this Court to enter Judgment against Defendants, for damages in excess of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), plus prejudgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs, and any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

1 Dated: October 23, 2024

2 Respectfully submitted,

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4 **LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE SHAW, P.C.**

5 BY: /s/ Stephen Gehringer, Esq.

6 STEPHEN GEHRINGER, ESQ.

7 PA Bar No.: 87020

8 2735 Terwood Road

9 Willow Grove, PA 19090

10 Tel: 267-374-4290

11 Fax: 215-657-6816

12 E-mail: sgehringer@shawlaws.com

13

14 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

15

16 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

17 I hereby certify that on Friday, October 28, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing
18 with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send
19 notification of such filing counsel(s) of record.

20

21 /s/ Stephen Gehringer, Esq.

22 STEPHEN GEHRINGER, ESQ.

23

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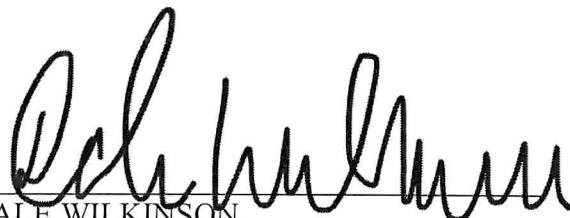
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26 AMENDED COMPLAINT

1 **VERIFICATION**

2 DALE WILKINSON hereby states that he is the PLAINTIFF in this action and that the
3 statements of fact made in the foregoing AMENDED COMPLAINT are true and correct to the best
4 of his information and belief.

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6 Date: October 23, 2024.
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DALE WILKINSON

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AMENDED COMPLAINT